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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRS-00 USIE-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PA-03 H-02 INR-07 L-00

NSAE-00 NSC-03 PA-02 SP-02 AID-05 OMB-01 /058 W
035013

O 261140Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0510

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 3516

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, FAID, MASS, PPAR, CR, US, SOPR

SUBJ: TV STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 3456 (B) STATE 042652

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED EXTEMPORANEOUSLY BY AMBASSADOR TO ENTIRE FOREIGN MEDIA CORPS AT 1720 HOURS FEBRUARY 26, PRIMARILY FOR BENEFIT OF TV AND RADIO CORRESPONDENTS, THOUGH NEWSPAPER AND AGENCY CORRESPONDENTS WERE ALSO PRESENT. QUOTE.

THE MILITARY SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH IS GRIM BUT IT IS NOT DESPERATE. EVERY YEAR AROUND THIS TIME, WHICH IN CAMBODIA IS THE DRY SEASON, THE ENEMY LAUNCHES A MAJOR OFFENSIVE. COMPARED TO LAST YEAR'S WARFARE, THE CAMBODIAN FORCES HERE HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB IN PROTECTING THE DEFENSIVE PERIMETER OF THE CAPITAL OF PHNOM PENH. BUT THIS YEAR THE ADVERSARY IS TRYING A NEW STRATEGY DESIGNED TO CUT THE TWO LIFELINES TO THIS NATION BY ROCKETING AND SHELLING THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HERE IN PHNOM PENH AND PREVENTING PLANTS FROM LANDING AND BY INTERDICTING THE MEKONG RIVER TO NAVIGATION BY SEEDING THE RIVER WITH MINES AND BY USING HEAVY WEAPONS TO SHOOT FROM

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AA is this
verbatim
what is told
him he could
say.

This is
essentially
verbatim.
Some slight
non-substantive
changes

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THE BANKS OF THE MEKONG ON THE CONVOYS. AS YOU KNOW, THE AIRPORT AT PHNOM PENH REMAINS OPEN DESPITE THE DAILY ~~ATTACKS~~ BUT NO CONVOYS HAVE COME UP THE MEKONG

No Objection To Declassification in Full 2010/09/08 : LOC-HAK-106-3-25-3

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WE AMERICANS I MEAN, ARE BRINGING IN BY AIR NEEDED AMMUNITION FOR THE CAMBODIAN MILITARY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND TOMORROW BRINGING IN RICE AND PETROLEUM BY AIR FOR THE CIVILIANS AND FOR THE REFUGEES WHO HAVE SUFFERED SO MUCH IN THIS WAR. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE CAMBODIANS ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES, BUT FOR THIS THEY NEED THE WHEREWITHAL AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE TO PROVIDE IT. THEY ARE DETERMINED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES MILITARILY BUT ALSO I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICULARLY STRESS THE DETERMINATION, WHICH ALL OF YOU HAVE KNOWN AND KNOW, OF TRYING TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

YOU ALL KNOW THE EFFORTS MADE BY THE AUTHORITIES IN PHNOM PENH TO FIND A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT CALLING FOR UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. NEGOTIATING WITH ANYBODY ANY TIME IN THE MEANTIME THE CAMBODIANS WENT THE MEANS TO FIGHT AND UNFORTUNATELY THE FUNDS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE SO FAR HAVE RUN OUT AND SUPPLIES WHICH ARE PRESENTLY ON THEIR WAY OVER HERE WILL BE USED UP IN A FEW WEEKS. THAT IS WHY THE ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON, LED BY THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF, HAS ASKED THE AMERICAN CONGRESS TO GIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR CAMBODIA. LET THERE BE NO DOUBT IN ANYBODY'S MIND THAT IF THESE FUNDS ARE NOT FORTHCOMING, THE CAMBODIANS HERE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE. NOT BECAUSE THEY DESPAIR, NOT BECAUSE THEY LACK THE WILL. BECAUSE WE AMERICANS WILL DEPRIVE THEM OF THE MEANS TO CONTINUE.

I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I WOULD HOPE THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT DEPRIVE THE CAMBODIANS OF THEIR

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CHANCE TO TRY TO FIND A POLITICAL COMPROMISE SOLUTION WHICH WOULD END THE SUFFERING FOR ALL KHMERS.
END QUOTE.
DEAN